

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting an information provider to a
system for transmitting ~~transmit~~ information via a transmission device for
transmitting information between information providers and information seekers, the
method comprising:

receiving test data transmitted by an information provider to the transmission
device, the test data representing information offered by the information provider;

evaluating the quality of the test data by the transmission device; [[and]]

admitting, by the transmission device, the information provider ~~by the~~
~~transmission device to the method~~ to the system for transmitting information between
the information providers and the information seekers ~~in-dependence~~ depending on
the quality of the test data; and

matching one or more information seekers with the information provider in
response to information enquiry data from the one or more information seekers;
wherein

the admission of the information provider to the system for transmitting
information between the information providers and the information seekers
enables the information provider to provide information to the one or more
information seekers in response to the information enquiry data from the one or
more information seekers.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reception of test data is preceded by the following steps:

receiving offer signaling data which have been transmitted to the transmission device by [[an]] the information provider, and

sending test request data from the transmission device to the information provider.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the information enquiry data ~~which has been~~ transmitted to the transmission device by the one or more information seekers[[,]];

receiving information offer data which has been transmitted to the transmission device by [[an]] the ~~admitted~~ information provider and which represents information offered by the ~~respective~~ information provider[[,]]; and wherein

the matching of the one or more information seekers with the information provider includes,

comparing the information enquiry data and the information offer data for determining corresponding information enquiry data and information offer data, and

transmitting search result data to a terminal of an information seeker if the information enquiry data of the information seeker corresponds to the information offer data of [[an]] the information provider.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of test data and information offer data are transmitted encrypted between [[an]] the information provider and the transmission device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of information enquiry data and search result data are transmitted encrypted between [[an]] the information seeker and the transmission device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation of the quality of the test data is stored in correlation ~~correlated~~ with the ~~corresponding~~ information provider in the transmission device in order to generate an evaluation history correlated with the ~~corresponding~~ information provider, and wherein the admission of the information provider by the transmission device is dependent on the evaluation history of the information provider.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality of the information transmitted to an information seeker is evaluated by the information seeker, wherein the evaluation of the quality is transmitted from the information seeker to the transmission device and [[is]] stored in correlation ~~correlated~~ with the ~~corresponding~~ information provider in the transmission device in order to generate an evaluation history correlated with the ~~corresponding~~ information provider, and wherein the admission of the information provider by the transmission device is dependent on the evaluation history of the information provider.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of,

an information seeker first transmits the information enquiry data to an enquirer function unit allocated to the information seeker and the information enquiry data are automatically forwarded at least partially from the enquirer function unit to the transmission device, and

the transmission device transmits the search result data to the enquirer function unit which sorts or normalizes at least one of information offer data contained therein and associated information provider data, before being transmitted to the information seeker.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of,

[[an]] the information provider first transmits the information offer data to a provider function unit associated with the information provider and the information offer data are automatically forwarded at least partially from the provider function to the transmission device, and

the transmission device transmits information enquiry data matching the information offer data of the information provider to the provider function unit which initiates the more detailed comparison with the information represented by the information offer data by the associated data comparison device.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation of at least one of the quality and the evaluation history is transmitted to the information seeker.

11. (Currently Amended) A transmission device, comprising:

a provider test interface device to receive test data[[,]] transmitted to the transmission device by an information provider, the test data representing information offered by the information provider;

an evaluation device, ~~constructed~~ to evaluate the quality of test data; and

a control unit, ~~constructed in such a manner that the admission of the information provider to transmit information is dependent on the quality of the test data to admit the information provider to a system for transmitting information between information providers and information seekers depending on the quality of the test data; wherein~~

the transmission device is configured to match one or more information seekers with the information provider in response to information enquiry data from the one or more information seekers, and

the admission of the information provider to the system for transmitting information between information providers and information seekers enables the information provider to provide information to the one or more information seekers in response to the information enquiry data from the one or more information seekers.

12. (Currently Amended) The transmission device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

a number of enquirer interface devices to receive information enquiry data transmitted to the transmission device by the one or more information seekers, and for sending search result data to terminals of [[the]] relevant information seekers;

a number of provider interface devices to receive information offer data which were transmitted to the transmission device by information providers and which represents information offered by the ~~respective information providers~~provider;

a comparison unit to compare the information enquiry data and the information offer data for determining corresponding information enquiry data and information offer data; and

a control unit which causes search result data to be transmitted to the terminal of an information seeker if the information enquiry data of the relevant information seeker corresponds to the information offer data of an information provider.

13. (Previously Presented) The transmission device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

a storage device to store the evaluation of the quality of test data.

14. (Previously Presented) The transmission device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

a storage device to store the evaluation of the quality of test data.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of information enquiry data and search result data are transmitted encrypted between an information seeker and the transmission device.

16. (Currently Amended) A transmission device, comprising:

test interface means for receiving test data transmitted to the transmission device by an information provider, the test data representing information offered by the information provider;

evaluation means for evaluating the quality of test data; [[and]]

control means for determining whether to admit the information provider to ~~transmit information~~ a system for transmitting information between information providers and information seekers depending on the quality of the test data; and a matching means for matching one or more information seekers with the information provider in response to information enquiry data from the one or more information seekers; wherein

the admission of the information provider to the system for transmitting information between information providers and information seekers enables the information provider to provide information to the one or more information seekers in response to the information enquiry data from the one or more information seekers.

17. (Currently Amended) The transmission device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a number of enquirer interface means for receiving information enquiry data transmitted to the transmission device by the one or more information seekers, and for sending search result data to terminals of [[the]] relevant information seekers;

a number of provider interface means for receiving information offer data transmitted to the transmission device by information providers and which represent information offered by [[the]] respective information ~~providers~~provider;

comparison means for comparing the information enquiry data and the information offer data for determining corresponding information enquiry data and information offer data; and

control means for causing search result data to be transmitted to the terminal of an information seeker if the information enquiry data of the relevant information seeker corresponds to the information offer data of an information provider.

18. (Previously Presented) The transmission device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

storage means for storing the evaluation of the quality of test data.

19. (Previously Presented) The transmission device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

storage means for storing the evaluation of the quality of test data.